Misuse of Places of Worships

129. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have carried out any survey to identify the places of worship misused for indulging in anti-national activities;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government against those found responsible for the misuse of religious places for anti-national and disruptive activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) No survey has been carried out by the Union Government to identify the places of worship misused for indulging in anti-national activities.

(c) Whenever such instances come to light suitable action is taken as per existing Law.

Recommendations regarding functioning of CRPF

130. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the assigned Group of Ministers which reviewed the functioning of the Central Reserve Police Force had suggested in their Report that the CRPF should become the main force to handle security duties in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the major recommendations contained in the Report and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon; and

(c) the specific initiatives taken towards modernisation of weaponry and equipment and for counter-insurgency training needs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIN PATHAK): (a) and (b)The Group of Ministers on Reforming the National Security System recommended that Internal Security/Counter Insurgency duties should be entrusted to Central Reserve Police Force and the Rashtriya Rifles. The Report has wide ranging recommendations

which have been accepted by the Government for implementation. This Report of the Group of Ministers is available in the Parliament Library for reference purposes.

(b) The upgradation and modernisation of weaponry, equipments and training is a continuous process. The training of CRPF personnel cover the aspects of handling militancy/insurgency to a limited extent. CRPF personnel are also being sent for specialised courses on counter-insurgency.

ISI links with NDFB

131. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that militants of Assam National Democratic Federation of Bodoland have close links with ISI operatives and that 13 NDFB ultras had recently been sent to Pakistan for arms training as reported in LOKMAT of 16th January, 2003;

(b) if so, whether this is localised in Assam only or militants of other North-East States have also similar links with ISI or other foreign disruptive agencies; and

(c) if so, whether adequate precautionary measures both preventive and corrective, are being taken so that security of the nation is not compromised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The reports indicate that the Pak ISI is providing material and logistic support to the North-Eastern militants.

To neutralise activities of ISI agents, Government have adopted a well coordinated and multi-pronged approach which includes strengthening the border management, gearing up of intelligence machinery, well coordinated intelligence-based action against ISI agents and militants sponsored by them, setting up of outposts of security forces and modernisation and up-gradation of police and security forces with advanced sophisticated weapons and communication system etc. Steps taken in this regard have resulted in detection/neutralisation of various ISI backed modules.